

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1111

By Herron

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the soldiers of Company
A 2-115 Field Artillery Battalion, Tennessee
National Guard for their relief efforts in service to
the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom and safety, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, many fine and honorable traditions have arisen from the deep wellspring of honor and bravery possessed by Tennesseans, but there is no finer tradition than that which gave Tennessee its nickname; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the "Volunteer State" have, throughout the years, willingly forsaken the comforts and securities of inaction by answering the call of duty, risking their lives and leaving their loved ones behind to honorably aid and assist our fellow Americans in times of great hardship and distress; and

WHEREAS, while the heroic deeds of Tennesseans have been extolled throughout the history of our State and Nation, thousands of our citizens continue the time-honored tradition of volunteerism through service in the Tennessee National Guard today; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Tennessee National Guard selflessly serve with courage and gallantry and deserve to be recognized for heroism in the line of duty and model citizenship in our American society; and

WHEREAS, after the sudden devastation and tragic loss of life wrought upon the City of New Orleans, the State of Louisiana, and the State of Mississippi by Hurricane Katrina, the

Tennessee National Guard dutifully answered the call to serve, secure, and protect the residents of these battered states; and

WHEREAS, the soldiers of Company A 2-115 Field Artillery Battalion are especially deserving of our deepest admiration and thanks for their valiant service in the wake of Hurricane Katrina; and

WHEREAS, commanded by Captain Jonathan R. Wilkes and headquartered in Lexington, Tennessee, Company A 2-115 Field Artillery Battalion conducted security missions in St. Bernard Parrish, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Company A 2-115 Field Artillery Battalion prevented looting, provided traffic control and assistance to civil authorities and the general population, and secured vital crude oil off-loading and refinery facilities; and

WHEREAS, proudly upholding the ideal of the citizen soldier, an essential tradition of American society, the Tennessee National Guard provided much needed relief to the victims of Hurricane Katrina by assisting in clean-up projects, transporting food and water, constructing shelters, maintaining medical facilities, providing medical care, transporting victims to safe shelters, and keeping streets and homes safe from looters and criminals; and

WHEREAS, their courageous service stands as an enduring example of all the characteristics that have ensured the continued safety and security of our Nation during times of natural disaster that threaten America's national security; and

WHEREAS, though we cannot adequately express our appreciation to the courageous men and women of the Tennessee Army National Guard for their relief efforts in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, it is most appropriate that we should honor them to the full extent of our ability, as they have made untold and innumerable sacrifices to assist and protect their fellow Americans; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we express our stalwart support for and express our deepest pride in the soldiers of Company A 2-115 Field Artillery Battalion, Tennessee National Guard for their exemplary service to the good people of the State of Louisiana in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.